

News from the Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney  
Gary Close Appointed to Select Judges

Culpeper Commonwealth's Attorney Gary Close has been reappointed to the Joint Judicial Advisory Committee by House of Delegates Speaker Del. William Howell.

The Advisory Committee reviews and interviews candidates for the Virginia Court of Appeals and the Virginia Supreme Court. The Committee reports its findings and recommendations to the House and Senate.

This is the third year that Close has been asked to serve on the Committee. The committee will be acting to fill the vacancy of outgoing Chief Justice Harry Carrico on the Virginia Supreme Court.

Other members of the Advisory Committee include former Senator Hunter Andrews, former Attorney General Richard Cullen, Petersburg Mayor Rosalyn Dance and former Secretary of Health and Human Services Kay Cole James.

"It is a rare privilege to serve in this capacity," Close said. "I hope to bring the good common sense of the people of Culpeper to the table during our deliberations."

Holly Wright Marries Dale Durrer

Holly Wright, legal secretary in the Commonwealth Attorney's Office, married local attorney Dale Durrer over the Christmas Holidays. It was an office wide celebration.

The two were married in Commonwealth Attorney Gary Close's restored Victorian home on South East Street. Close performed the wedding for the two in a candlelight ceremony.

Legal Secretary Heather Borders made the three-tiered wedding cake for the couple and played piano during the ceremony. Office Administrator Carol Geer helped coordinate the ceremony.



Gary Close  
Commonwealth’s Attorney

"We're a full service office," Close joked about his role in the wedding. "And, as usual, it's the secretaries that really make things happen around here."

Close and Walther Attend Homicide Training Seminar

Deputy Commonwealth Attorney Paul Walther and Commonwealth Attorney Gary Close attended a two-day seminar on developments in capital murder law. What made the attendance of the two unusual was that the seminar was intended for defense attorneys.

Close and Walther were the only two prosecutors at the gathering in Richmond.

"Its always good to know what the other side is thinking," Close said.

Attending the seminar is part of an ongoing program in the Commonwealth Attorney's Office to beef up on education and training in homicide litigation.

"Sadly, our County is growing, and I expect we will see more homicides than in the past," Close said.

Ligia Smith Honored For Work

Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Ligia Smith was recently honored for her work in Domestic Assault Prosecution. Smith specializes in prosecuting domestic violence and sexual assault involving adult victims.

The award recognized the Culpeper Domestic Violence Task Force for its high level of cooperation between agencies dealing with domestic violence. Smith represents the Commonwealth Attorney's Office on the task force.

"I am very proud of Ligia's work in this difficult area," Close said. "She reflects the strong commitment I have to prosecute rather than ignore domestic violence," Close said.

Smith has been prosecuting domestic violence cases for five years in the Culpeper Commonwealth Attorney's Office.

Go Air Force

Some people go to parties on New Year's Eve. Some people stay home and watch TV.

Not Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Glenda Greenaway. She and husband John spent the day watching their son Michael play in the Air Force-VPI bowl game in San Francisco. Greenaway played for Culpeper's Blue Devils during high school. He is now the kicker for Air Force.

Greenaway follows his older brother Thomas at the Colorado Springs Air Force Academy. Younger brother Brendan is also considering attending the service academy.

And the game...well let's just say that Greenaway did a great job kicking, VPI did a great job putting scores on the board (20-13), and there are some that insist that Air Force played the better game.

Culpeper County’s Employee of the Month Program

This program has been established to honor and recognize individuals working within the County who go beyond what is required of them, and to show our appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

This program gives employees the opportunity to nominate a co-worker they feel deserves to be recognized as the Employee of the Month. The eleven elected representatives of the Employee Action Committee decide who will receive this award.

Each month the employee chosen receives a reserved parking space for one month, a paid day off, and is presented a pin and certificate by the County Administrator.



Month of November  
Tonya Hooser  
Emergency Services



Month of December  
Grace Lowe  
Dept. Of Development



Month of October  
Janice Estep  
Information Technology



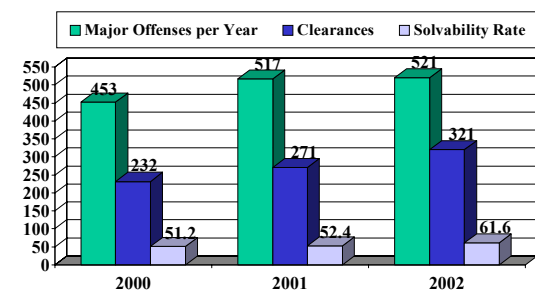
## *Culpeper County Sheriff's Office* *by Sheriff Lee Hart*

### *Happy New Year Culpeper*



I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. For the year 2002, the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office answered 17,096 calls for service, served 16,668 civil process papers, and served 1,190 criminal warrants. The solvability rate for major crimes in Culpeper County was 61.6%, a 9.2% increase from 2001. The national average is between 30 and 40% solvability for major crimes. The solvability in cases involving crimes against people in Culpeper County was 96.9%, a 13.8% increase from 2001. I am extremely proud of these figures and would like to thank the men and women of the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office for making this possible through their dedication and countless hours of hard work.

Culpeper County Sheriff's Office  
Major Crime  
Yearly Solvability Rate



### *Christmas with Kids*

On December 14, 2002, local law enforcement officers from the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office, Culpeper Town Police, Virginia State Police, and the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries met with over 100 deserving children to do some Christmas shopping. Over \$10,000 was spent on items the children picked out. This event was made possible through donations raised during Sheriff Hart's Annual Golf Tournament. Once again, thank you to all who contributed to make this event the success that it was.

### *Congratulations Law Enforcement Basic #68*

On December 6, 2002, the 68<sup>th</sup> Basic Law Enforcement class graduated from the Rapahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy. Five members of the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office were among the thirty-two graduates. Pictured with Sheriff Hart from left to right, Deputy Richard McKinley, Deputy Tanner Harvey, Deputy Frank Reaves, Deputy Bernie Feaganes and Deputy Keith Wilson. Deputy Reaves was honored with the prestigious Charles Murray Achievement Award. Once again congratulations to all of the graduates.



**The Sheriff's Quarterly Report** took place in February, at the Mitchells Presbyterian Church. I would like to thank Pastor John Grotz for allowing us to use his beautiful church to hold this event. For details on the next Sheriff's Quarterly Report please check the local newspapers or visit our website at [www.culpepersheriffsoffice.com](http://www.culpepersheriffsoffice.com) for the details, as the event draws closer.



REGIONAL ADULT EDUCATION

George Washington Carver-Piedmont Education Center  
9432 James Madison Hwy., Rapidan, VA 22733  
Telephone (540) 825-0476

SPRING 2003 CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Codes: Piedmont - P      Culpeper Career Resource Center - C      Madison Co. H.S. - M  
Orange County High School - O      Culpeper County High School - CC

COMPUTER CLASSES

CLASS	DAY/SITE	BEG.-END	SESSIONS	TIME	FEE
Beginning Internet	T/O	2/25-3/25	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Beginning Internet	T/O	4/1-5/6	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Build the Basic Web Page	W/C	2/26-3/26	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Computer Repair	TH/P	2/27-5/8	10	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$95.00
Computers for Seniors	W/C	2/26-3/26	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Computers for Seniors	W/C	4/2-5/7	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Exploring the Web	T/C	2/25-3/25	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Introduction to Computers	M/P	2/24-3/24	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Introduction to Computers	M/P	3/31-5/5	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Introduction to Desktop Design	M/C	2/24-3/24	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Keyboarding I/Typing	M/P	2/24-3/24	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Keyboarding II/Typing	M/P	3/31-5/5	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Access	TH/P	2/27-3/27	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Access	TH/P	4/3-5/8	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Excel	TH/P	2/27-3/27	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Excel	TH/P	4/3-5/8	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Office 2000	W/C	2/26-3/26	5	5:30-7:30 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Power Point	T/C	2/25-3/25	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Power Point	T/C	4/1-5/6	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Word	T/P	2/25-3/25	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Word	T/P	2/25-3/25	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
MS Word	T/P	4/1-5/6	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Windows 98 & 2000	M/P	2/24-3/24	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Windows 98 & 2000	TH/P	4/3-5/8	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Windows XP	M/P	2/24-3/24	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00
Windows XP	TH/P	4/3-5/8	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$80.00

ADDITIONAL CLASS OFFERINGS

Basic Drawing	M/CC	2/24-5/5	10	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$65.00
Conversational Spanish I	M/P	2/24-5/5	10	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$75.00
Conversational Spanish II	M/P	2/24-5/5	10	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$75.00
Financial Planning Workshop for Individuals	M/P	2/24-3/24	5	7:00-8:30 P.M.	<b>FREE</b>
Fundamentals of Woodworking	W/M	2/26-5/7	10	6:00-9:00 P.M.	\$100.00
Fun with Flowers	T/P	2/25-3/25	5	7:00-8:30 P.M.	\$65.00
Guitar Lessons I	T/P	2/25-3/25	5	5:00-7:00 P.M.	\$75.00
Guitar Lessons II	T/P	4/1-5/6	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$75.00
Horticulture Series	TH/P	2/27-5/1	9	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$85.00
Personal Safety & Violence Prevention Course	TH/P	3/6 & 3/13	2	6:00-8:00 P.M.	<b>FREE</b>
Personal Safety & Violence Prevention Course	TH & M/P	4/10 & 4/14	2	6:00-8:00 P.M.	<b>FREE</b>
Photography I	TH/P	2/27-3/20	4	7:30-9:00 P.M.	\$50.00
Photography II	TH/P	3/27-5/22	8	7:30-9:00 P.M.	\$70.00
Theatre I	T/P	2/25-3/25	5	7:00-9:00 P.M.	\$75.00

**Is there a particular class you would like to have offered locally?** Please give us a call with your suggestion. It is essential to have a group of 5 or more individuals interested in the same subject to offer the class. Let us hear your ideas. When we have a firm commitment of 5 people, we will contract a teacher to teach the class. Space is available for day or evening classes.

REGIONAL ADULT EDUCATION

PLANNING DISTRICT #9  
CULPEPER, MADISON, ORANGE &  
RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTIES

Many adults who did not complete a high school program of instruction have continued to learn through a variety of experience encountered in everyday life. The purpose of the GED Testing Program is to provide an opportunity for these individuals to have the learning acquired from such educational experiences evaluated and recognized. The GED Tests make it possible for qualified individuals to earn a high school credential, thus providing opportunities for hundreds of thousands of adults to:

- \$ Pursue higher education
- \$ Obtain jobs or job promotions
- \$ Achieve personal goals

WHAT ARE THE GED TESTS?

The Tests of General Education Development (GED Tests) are internationally recognized. They have been designed to measure major academic skills and knowledge in core content areas that are learned during four years of high school. When an adult passes the 7 ½ hour GED Tests battery, the resulting GED credential certifies that he or she has attained subject matter knowledge and skills associated with high school completion. The GED Tests battery includes the following subject area tests:

- \$ Language Arts, Writing
- \$ Social Studies
- \$ Science
- \$ Language Arts, Reading
- \$ Mathematics

The GED Tests are offered in English and Spanish editions.

G. W. Carver - Piedmont Education Center  
GED Testing Schedule for 2003  
Denise S. Vogt, Chief Examiner

March 14 & 15, 2003  
April 4 & 5, 2003  
May 2 & 3, 2003  
June 20 & 21, 2003  
July 18 & 19, 2003  
August 29 & 30, 2003  
September 5 & 6, 2003  
October 3 & 4, 2003  
November 14 & 15, 2003  
December 12, 2003



Register for Adult Classes in your area for GED Preparation, or work on your reading, writing and math skills. Call (540)825-0476.

Culpeper Literacy Council GED-9:00-12:00 Noon/Mon. & Wed.  
501 N. Main Street, Culpeper, VA  
Culpeper GED-6:00-8:30 PM/ Tues. & Thurs.  
Culpeper County High School, Room #221, 14240 Achievement Dr., Culpeper, VA  
Culpeper/Rappahannock ESOL-English As A Second Language  
6:30-9:00 P.M. /Tues. & Thurs./Career Resource Center , 219 E. Davis St. Culpeper  
Family Academy-5:00 - 8 PM/Mon.  
G.W. Carver-Piedmont Education Center, Rt. 15 (5.5 miles South of Culpeper)  
Regional TFL-5:30-8:00 PM/ Mon. & Thurs.  
G.W. Carver-Piedmont Education Center, Rt. 15 (5.5 miles South of Culpeper)  
Madison GED-6:00-8:30 PM/ Tues. & Thurs.  
Madison Literacy Council, Thrift Rd. Old School Board Bldg., Madison, VA.  
Gordonsville GED-6:30-9:00 PM/ Mon. & Thurs.  
Gordon-Barbour Elem. Library, 500 W. Baker St., Gordonsville, VA  
Orange GED-6:30-9:00 PM/ Tues. & Thurs./LC-4 Mobile Classroom behind  
Orange County High School, 201 Selma Rd., Orange, VA  
Orange/Madison ESOL-English As A Second Language/ 7:00-9:00 PM  
Mon. & Wed., Orange Presbyterian Church, 162 W. Main St., Orange, VA  
Rappahannock GED-7:00-9:00 PM/ Mon. & Thurs.  
Rappahannock County Library, 4 Library Rd., Washington, VA

Enrollment for G. W. Carver-Piedmont Education Center

TUITION REQUIRED IN ADVANCE		Make check or money order payable to: <u>Orange County School Board</u>	
Detach and return with payment to: Office of Continuing Education, GWC-PEC, 9432 James Madison Hwy., Rapidan, VA 22733.			
Name: _____		Gender: _____ M _____ F	
Address: _____ Street Name City State Zip Code			
Daytime Phone (____) _____		Evening Phone (____) _____	
Please enroll me in the following classes:			
<u>Class Name</u>	<u>Day (Circle One)</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Cost</u>
_____	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	_____	_____
_____	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday	_____	_____
Method of Payment: M.O. _____ Check _____ Cash _____			

*CULPEPER COUNTY*

**2<sup>nd</sup> HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY**



***PUT HAZARDOUS WASTE IN ITS PLACE!***

**WHEN?**      **SATURDAY, April 5, 2003**  
                  **9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**WHERE?**     **Laurel Valley Solid Waste Transfer Station**  
                  **The Transfer Station is located about 4 miles Northwest of the Town of Culpeper.**  
                  **Take Route 522 West for 4 miles. Turn right on Route 638, and then make an immediate left onto Route 770**  
                  **(Laurel Valley Road)**

**WHAT HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES WILL BE ACCEPTED?**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Paints (latex and oil based)</b></li><li>• <b>Paint Thinners and Solvents</b></li><li>• <b>Automotive Batteries</b></li><li>• <b>Household Batteries</b></li><li>• <b>Motor Oil</b></li><li>• <b>Antifreeze</b></li><li>• <b>Solid/Liquid Pesticides</b></li><li>• <b>Poisons</b></li><li>• <b>Aerosol Cans</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Acids</b></li><li>• <b>Adhesives</b></li><li>• <b>Household Cleaners</b></li><li>• <b>Oxidizers (such as pool chemicals and bleach)</b></li><li>• <b>Photographic Chemicals</b></li><li>• <b>Unwanted fuels (such as gasoline and kerosene)</b></li><li>• <b>Corrosives (such as ammonia &amp; drain cleaner)</b></li><li>• <b>Insecticides/Pesticides/Herbicides</b></li></ul> |
|--|--|

These products make our lives easier, but they can harm our families, our pets and our environment if not used and disposed of properly. Americans create about two million tons of household hazardous waste each year!

**WHAT WASTES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED?**

- **WASTE FROM COMMERCIAL GENERATORS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**
- **Ammunition, explosives, compressed gas cylinders, and unidentifiable materials.**
- **Biological, Medical or Radioactive Wastes**

**HOW DO I PREPARE MY WASTE FOR TRANSPORT?**

- **Bring household hazardous waste in original containers or in clearly labeled, leak-proof containers, making sure lids are tight.**
- **If a container leaks, pack contents and container in a larger package and use an absorbent material, such as cat litter, to soak up the leak.**

**WHY PARTICIPATE IN A COLLECTION EVENT?**

The improper disposal of household hazardous waste can not only harm the environment, but it is also be a threat to human health. Hazardous waste does not belong in the garbage, toilet, storm drain, or on the ground. It can kill wildlife and pets, pollute the soil, threaten underground water reserves or be carried away by surface waters to lakes and streams.

For further information please contact:  
Culpeper County Department of Environmental Services



From Your Commissioner of the Revenue  
by Terry L. Yowell

There are a number of **important filing deadlines** coming up for 2003:

May 1	Personal Property
May 1	Business Personal Property and Machinery & Tools
May 1	Virginia Income Tax (2002 tax year)
May 1	High Mileage (excess of 100,000 miles by January 1) documentation
April 1	Tax Relief for the Elderly & Disabled
November 1	Land Use Program (new enrollment effective for the following tax year)

**According to Culpeper County Code Section 12-2** *Every person owning personal property subject to taxation by the County shall file a return with the Commissioner of Revenue declaring the same on or before the first day of May in the year in which such property is subject to taxation by the County. For failure to file such return on or before such day, the Commissioner of Revenue shall assess a penalty of ten percent (10%) of the amount of the tax otherwise assessed or two dollars (\$2.00), whichever is greater. Such penalty for late filing shall be due and payable at the time that the tax assessed is due and payable.*

As you may know by now, the Culpeper County Board of Supervisors has enacted a **new ordinance** which allows for the assessment and taxation of newly constructed/occupied buildings on a pro-rated, calendar year basis. Prior to the adoption of this ordinance, which went into effect January 1, 2003, buildings were assessed and taxed based on the percentage complete as of January 1 of each year.

Now, in addition to assessments based on a percentage complete as of January 1 of each year, newly constructed buildings will be assessed, and taxes will be levied, on a pro-rated basis determined by the number of months following the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the building or the building is considered fit for use.

Example: Bob Buildright is building a house. If construction is complete on January 1, 2003 the fair market assessment for his house will be \$200,000.

If his house is only 50% complete on January 1, 2003 his house will be assessed at \$100,000. (50% of \$200,000.)

If construction is completed by March 25, Bob will receive a supplemental assessment for the additional 50% pro-rated for the remaining 9 months of the year 2003.

Along with this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors also enacted the ordinance which allows for the pro-rated abatement of taxes for buildings razed, destroyed or damaged by fortuitous happenings.

The Culpeper County Board of Supervisors also **amended** the ordinance for the **real estate tax exemption** for the elderly and disabled. The amendment increases the gross household income limitation from \$25,000 to \$30,000 per year. The subtraction from the previous year's income of each relative, other than the spouse of the owner occupying the dwelling, has been increased from \$4,000 to \$6,500.

Please remember that if you file your personal property forms by May 1, you will avoid the 10% late filing penalty. Also when you file please be sure to indicate whether your vehicle is for personal use or business use. If your vehicle has over 100,000 miles by January 1, you **may** qualify for a high mileage adjustment. Our office will use the National Automobile Dealer Association (NADA) guide to adjust the value of your vehicle. Third party documentation (i.e., inspection receipt or service center receipt clearly showing vehicle identification number and odometer reading) must be submitted by May 1.

By now if you are a real estate owner, you should have received a general reassessment notice indicating the current fair market value of your land and improvements. This reassessment is effective January 1, 2003. If you are not in agreement with the assessed value, please follow the appeals procedures included with your notice.

If you have any questions or you need any assistance, please call your Commissioner of the Revenue's office at 540-727-3443 or email me at tyowell@culpepercounty.gov



Terry Yowell, Commissioner of the Revenue

## Culpeper Regional Airport *by Tanya Woodward*



We are well into 2003, and I hope everyone had a GREAT New Year. It is hard to believe where the time goes. In January of every year the Airport Advisory Committee elects a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman for that year. For 2003 the Airport Advisory Committee Chairman is Earl Long and Vice Chairman is Tony Dias. Both these gentlemen are active with the Civil Air Patrol which is based at the Airport, and Mr. Dias is also the Treasurer with the Culpeper Aero Squadron, a Culpeper Airport Pilot Group. They have both been on the commit-

tee for a number of years and have the knowledge and abilities to carry us through 2003. The Airport Advisory Committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month at the Airport, and the public is welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings. The other members of the committee are; Steve Nixon, Mike Dale, Jerry Landon, Bob Yeaman, Bill Chase (Board of Supervisors representative) and Carolyn Smith (Board of Supervisors alternate rep).

The Construction projects at the Airport have been put on winter shutdown and will proceed in the spring. If all goes as planned, we will have a 5000 ft. runway, renovated airport ramp and renovated automobile parking lot by the end of Summer 2003. Won't that be

nice for the Air Fest?!

Speaking of the Air Fest 2003, it will be held on Saturday, October 11 this year. **We need volunteers!!!!** Some areas where we need assistance are parking cars, signing up kids for the Young Eagle Flights, refuse pick-up, set-up and take-down (tables/chairs, crowd control barriers, etc.) and other such jobs. We will provide you with an official Air Fest 2003 shirt, dinner at the pre-show get-together with the pilots and staff, and lunch on the day of the event. If you are interested in helping out, please call me at 540-825-8280 or drop me an email with your name, address, phone number and how you would like to help out at: [twooward@culpepercounty.gov](mailto:twooward@culpepercounty.gov) We would not be able to put on such an exciting show if we didn't have the volunteers to

## Virginia Cooperative Extension Looks Ahead to 2003

*by Linda G. Murphy, Unit Coordinator*

State budget cuts and their impact have been the topic of many news releases for several months. Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) has been one of the agencies deeply affected by the downturn in the state's economy. Because stories abound on the devastation to our organization, I would like to take this opportunity to assure Culpeper residents that the local unit is still offering most of the programs residents have come to rely on. This is due to the strong local support of County government, an army of volunteers from the community, grants, and the heavy use by you the resident. Thanks to these efforts, we made it through 2002 with minimal program cuts and head into 2003 full of optimism for continuing our strong program effort in Culpeper County.

If you are new to Culpeper County (or are not familiar with us) let me introduce the programs and staff at VCE. Residents may also visit our website at <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/view.cfm?webname=culpeper> to access this information, read and print newsletters, and learn about upcoming workshops. Most extension publications are available on line at [www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu) If you have questions about information obtained from an on-line publication, direct it to one of the local staff members. Or if you still prefer the personal contact call us at 540-727-3435, ext. 0.

On the front lines to welcome visitors to our

offices and direct your inquiries are Sandy Lillard, ext. 352 and Cindy Atkin, ext. 353. They carry out the much needed support services for all our operations.

Carl Stafford is responsible for the agriculture program in the County. Questions related to agriculture production should be directed to Carl at ext. 351. Winter 2003 programs include the area forage conference, a beef cattle short course, landowners woods & wildlife conference and commercial horticulture. Details on these and other available classes are outlined in the January issue of *The Piedmont Farmer* available on our website or from the office.

Linda Murphy provides the leadership for the family programs in Culpeper County. Parenting education remains the current focus. The *Living Apart, Parenting Together* program is offered monthly. *Basic Parenting* is offered 3-4 times a year. Programs in family financial management, nutrition and wellness, and food safety are also available, as well as, inservice opportunities for child care providers. Linda can be reached at ext. 355.

Judy Stevens and Georgette Yates assist families and youth in developing healthy eating habits and life style practices through the *Smart Choices Nutrition Education Program*. This federally funded program works with

low and limited income audiences. Judy, ext. 348 works with adults, Georgette, ext. 346 works with youth.

The 4-H Youth Development program is a premier youth program. It offers opportunities for youth through special interest clubs, camp, school and community programs. Inquires should be directed to the 4-H Extension Agent, Jenny Kapsa at ext. 347 or Denise Walker, 4-H Program Support Technician at ext. 354. 4-H is for youth 9-19. There is a Cloverbud program for youth ages 5-8. The dedicated volunteers are key to the success of this program.

From late March/early April through October trained volunteers answer the many gardening and home horticulture questions that come into the office. Training for new volunteers who wish to become Master Gardeners is conducted every winter. In addition to staffing the office, some conduct classes in the elementary schools, nursing homes, or speak to community groups.

If you have youth of 4-H age, a special talent/skill you would like to share, or simply want information about one of our programs call or visit our office at 101 S. West St., Culpeper. Office hours are M-F, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. We look forward to hearing from you.



## Have You Ever Thought About Working for the County?

*By Susanne H. Taylor, Human Resources Manager*

Why would anyone want to work for County government? The pay is not such that one can hope to become a millionaire by simply working that one job; the work is hard, sometimes complicated and very time consuming; one has to deal with members of the general public and probably has a large number of interruptions in any given day. So why, indeed, would anyone want to do it?

Well, speaking from my own experience, there is a sense of making a difference in the lives of the citizens we try to serve. We provide information to support, or advise against, certain proposals before the Board of Supervisors so they can make well-rounded, well-informed decisions. We know that our efforts are to serve the current and future needs of the community, while respecting our traditions, history and heritage. We get to meet a lot of new and interesting people.

Do any of these qualities strike a chord with you? Are you the customer service type? Are you a problem solver? Do you really get a charge out of resolving a difficult issue? Do you have the ability to make the unacceptable more agreeable? If so, we have several positions that seem to become vacant frequently. Typically, we have not advertised much more than the "technical" skills needed for these jobs, but the above qualities are actually in demand with every position we have at the County.

I'd like to highlight three very different positions with this article. By the time you are reading this, we hope that all will be staffed, but would like to hear from others that we know are out there in the County. We always keep applications in an active status for the period of a year, in the event a suitable opening occurs, and I do go back through them periodically to look for such candidates.

The first position is that of part time Convenience Site Attendant. This could either be located at the transfer station site, formerly known as the landfill, on Laurel Valley Place; or it could be at the Lignum convenience site. The work involved here is enforcing the County's rules regarding the disposal of solid household waste by the citizens of the County. There are not a lot of rules, but we have to be insistent on the ones that are there due to environmental requirements. Violations of environmental standards carry with them some rather stiff fines, so we have an employee stationed at each site during its open hours to ensure that all citizens who bring in items for disposal are educated in the proper method for their disposal. Other duties include keeping the area picked up and as presentable as one can, given the nature of the site itself. What are the requirements? Well, being able to communicate in English, in both oral and written for-

mats; being physically able to bend, stoop, pick up items of trash that might spill onto the ground accidentally; maintain whatever records the Department of Environmental Services requires. There can be times when things are slow, providing time for some leisure activities. This position is perfect for a retired person who would like to earn a little extra spending money, a student whose class schedule permits it; or anyone who just needs a few hours per week, but has entire days to devote on a regular basis each week. Also, the position requires someone who is willing to work on some days that are normally considered legal holidays, but for which the site must remain open. These would be days such as either Christmas Eve or perhaps the day after Christmas; the day after Thanksgiving, Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, Presidents' Day, Lee-Jackson Day, or Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday. Think you might be interested? Obtain a County application and complete it, then submit it to my office. I'm located in the County Administration Building (the Old Post Office) at the corner of Main and Spencer Streets. Anyone in the front office can provide the application for you. It is also available on our website as a download. The website is [www.culpepercounty.gov](http://www.culpepercounty.gov) utilizing the "Employment" link.

The second position is that of Deputy Animal Control Officer. This is a very interesting position that combines skills of domestic animal handling, customer service and law enforcement. While there is some minimal handling of the animals from the standpoint of physically putting them in the vehicle for transporting to the animal shelter, primarily, the position deals with people. While we advertise the need for the ability to recognize common animal diseases and having the ability to compassionately handle an animal that might be ill or injured, the primary focus of the position is to deal with the people who own these animals, to explain their rights and responsibilities as pet owners in the Commonwealth, and, when necessary, to issue summons' or citations. Sometimes, it will involve taking citizens to Court. This position is responsible for investigating cruelty cases and inspecting kennels to ensure compliance with Code of Virginia requirements. One must be willing to be certified to handle firearms (with the expectation of not using them) and willing to be certified to perform euthanasia. Our shelter rarely has to put an animal to sleep unless it is severely injured, or vicious. The focus of the shelter is to place pets in good homes. With the cooperation of the Humane

Society, that goal is being accomplished in far greater numbers now than in the past.

Finally, we routinely seek persons to work part time in the E911 Dispatch Center, or Emergency Communications Center. The persons who work here literally have the lives of other people depending on them. It is a very stressful position, and we do have a fair amount of turnover. Successful candidates can be unskilled and we will provide training, but a few minimum requirements must be met. The person must be at least eighteen years of age and have the equivalent of a high school education. A significant background investigation, including a drug test, is done on each candidate being seriously considered, and a test is administered to evaluate the potential of the individual to perform this type of work. One must be able to type on a computer, and not be afraid to work with radios, telephones and computer systems - - all at the same time! The dispatch center answers the person calling in on the 911 line (and the business lines) and dispatches the appropriate emergency public service provider to the location. The communications operator prioritizes the calls according to established protocols and routes them accordingly via radio. Again, one does not get monetarily rich doing this, the work is hard and stressful, but one gets the satisfaction of knowing that, because of his or her own efforts, another's life was impacted positively. Even when the patient ultimately does not survive, if the communications operator has done everything within his or her own power to ensure that help arrives in a timely manner, he or she has made a positive impact. E911 Communications Operators are among the most critical positions we have in the County. Those who are able to perform this function are truly special people.

I hope I have convinced some of you to consider the County when looking for career opportunities. Not everyone can be an elected official, and not everyone gets a position in management, but frequently the more important, directly connected positions are those of the staff. Staff members are valued in Culpeper County, and we think this is a pretty neat place to work!

*Continued on back page*



# CULPEPER MINUTES

A Publication of  
The Culpeper County  
Board of Supervisors



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ISSUE ELEVEN

CULPEPER MINUTES

SPRING 2003

## Have You Ever Thought About Working for the County? *cont'd*

### Finding Out about Vacancies:

**Website:** [www.culpepercounty.gov](http://www.culpepercounty.gov)  
Click on Employment link.

**JobLine:** (540) 727-3444, option 8. This announcement is current and operational again, after a lengthy hiatus.

**Local Culpeper Newspapers:** We always utilize both of the Culpeper papers; the **Star Exponent's Sunday** edition only to hold the line on cost, as well as getting to the largest circulation of job seekers; and the Thursday edition of **the Culpeper News**. Frequently, we also advertise in such publications as the related newspapers in surrounding counties, the **Richmond Times-Dispatch** and the **Fredericksburg Free Lance Star**.

**Virginia Employment Commission:** We usually advertise here as well.

**County Applications are required for County positions. We cannot accept state applications.**

### How do I get an employment application for Culpeper County?

**Website:** [www.culpepercounty.gov](http://www.culpepercounty.gov). An employment application can be completed online for a position advertised there, unless otherwise specified. Also, the application may be downloaded if you have Adobe version 5.

**Call our Office:** (540) 727-3427, extensions 121 or 122. Chasity Groves, the Office Services Assistant, and my right hand, is at extension 121, or my extension is 122. You need to provide a mailing address, and we will send it. Or you can email Chasity: [cgroves@culpepercounty.gov](mailto:cgroves@culpepercounty.gov) or me [staylor@culpepercounty.gov](mailto:staylor@culpepercounty.gov). If you give us an email address, we can email it to you.

**Visit our Office:** During the hours of 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, one may pick up an application at the Administrative Offices. (Human Resources is located in these offices.) Our building is the Old Post Office building, located at the northwest corner of Main and Spencer Streets at 302 North Main Street.